

1914.

ISLE OF ELY COUNTY COUNCIL.

Third Annual Report
on the
PUBLIC HEALTH
of the
Isle of Ely,
For the Year 1914,

by
F. E. WOODHAM ROGERS,
County Medical Officer of Health.

*Prepared by direction of the County Council for the Administrative
County of the Isle of Ely.*

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1915.

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*To the Chairman and Members of the
Isle of Ely County Council.*

GENTLEMEN, —

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report on the Public Health of the County for 1914.

When reading my figures and making comparisons with former years it must be remembered that estimated figures are used perforce and that owing to the deviation from normal conditions these may vary far more widely from the actual numbers than in times of peace.

Since my period of office has been so short I do not wish to place on record any recommendations until they can be based on a wider experience, to indicate in which direction steps can best be taken.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

F. E. WOODHAM ROGERS,

Medical Officer of Health.

July, 1915.

SANITARY AUTHORITIES IN THE ISLE OF ELY.

THE ISLE OF ELY COUNTY COUNCIL

Acting through its Executive :

The County Public Health and Housing Committee.

(Quorum . Five.)

ARCHER, H.	HILL, R. B. (The Rev.)
BIDWELL, C.	HORRELL, W.
BREWIN, G.	KEMP, J.
CLARKE, Sir W. H.	LUDDINGTON, J. L.
COLE, H.	MOLES, S.
COLLINGWOOD, J.	NEWMAN, A. E. T. (Rev.)
CUTLACK, W.	PELL, A. J. (Chairman)
DENNIS, J. H.	SAUNDERS, J. H.
EDWARDS, S. E.	SMITH, J. E. J.
GLENNY, F.	WHITTOME, H. A.
GRANGER, T. B.	WHITTOME, J. W.

Isle of Ely Insurance Committee.

Members appointed by the County Council.

BURMAN, A. S.	HILL, R. B. (Rev.)
CLARKE, Sir W. H. (Chairman)	NEWMAN, A. E. T. (Rev.)
COLLINGWOOD, J.	PECKOVER, Hon. Miss A.
DENNIS, J. H.	STEPHENS, C. E. (Dr.)
EMERY, Miss K. M.	

Committee under Section 8 (3) of "The Midwife's Act, 1902."

ARCHER, H.	WHITTOME, J. W.
LUDDINGTON, L. H.	YATES, J.
PEAKE, T.	

County Medical Officer of Health.

ROGERS, F. E. WOODHAM, B.A., M.B., B.C. (Cantab.), County Buildings
Ely, Cambs.

Assistant County Medical Officer.

GRAHAM, M. C. R., M.B. (Edin.), D.P.H., D.T.M., Wisbech.

LOCAL SANITARY AUTHORITIES.

Urban Districts and Boroughs	Clerks.	District Medical Officers of Health.	Sanitary Inspector
1. Ely	.. G. M. Hall, Esq.	.. S. C. Harris, L.F.P.S., L.S.A.	.. William McKelvie
2. Chatteris	.. A. H. Ruston, Esq.	R. E. Nix, B.A., M.B., B.C.	.. Selden Hipwell
3. March	.. C. Greenwood, Esq.	F. A. Evison, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.	
4. Whittlesey	B. Weldon, Esq.	.. C. H. Harding, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.	
5. Wisbech	.. C.E.F. Copeman, Esq.	H. Groom, B.A., M.D.	

Rural Districts.	Clerks.	District Medical Officers of Health.	Sanitary Inspectors.
1. Ely	.. E. B. Claxton, Esq.	B. Anningson, M.A., M.D.	
2. North Witch- ford	.. G. Sharman, Esq.	C. E. Stephens, M.D.	A. W. Broker
3. Thorney	.. A. F. Whittome, Esq.	H. Clapham, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.	.. E. W. Smith
4. Whittlesey	J. Peed, Esq.	.. J. J. Waddelow, F.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.S.	.. Fredk. Speechley
5. Wisbech	.. R. W. Faircloth, Esq.	C. H. Gunson, M.B., Ch. B.	

Port of
Wisbech C.E.F. Copeman, Esq. G. F. Collins, M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

Date of Receipt of Annual Reports.

Ely	..	..	Urban	..	..	5th February.
Chatteris	..	..	Urban	..	..	16th April.
March	..	..	Urban	..	..	5th June.
Whittlesey	..	..	Urban	..	..	28th April.
Wisbech	..	..	Urban	..	..	19th March.
Ely	..	..	Rural	..	..	22nd April.
North Witchford	..	..	Rural	..	..	25th March.
Thorney	..	..	Rural	..	..	9th April.
Whittlesey	..	..	Rural	..	..	27th April.
Wisbech	..	..	Rural	..	..	25th April.

DUTIES OF COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH.

“The duties of a Medical Officer of Health of a County shall be such as may be prescribed by General Order of the Local Government Board and such other duties as may be assigned to him by the County Council.”—Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909, Part III., s. 68 (2).

The Board on July 29, 1910, issued the County Medical Officers of Health (Duties) Order, 1910, prescribing the following duties :—

- (1) The Medical Officer of Health of the County shall inform himself as far as practicable respecting all influences affecting or threatening to affect injuriously the public health in the County. For this purpose he shall visit the several County districts in the County as occasion may require, giving to the Medical Officer of Health of each County district prior notice of his visit, so far as this may be practicable.
- (2) The Medical Officer of Health of the County shall from time to time inquire into and report upon the hospital accommodation available for the isolation of cases occurring in the County—
 - (a) of small-pox, and
 - (b) of other infectious diseases,
 and upon any need for the provision of further hospital accommodation
- (3) The Medical Officer of Health of the County shall communicate to the Medical Officer of Health of a County district within the County any information which he may possess as to any danger to health threatening that district.
- (4) The Medical Officer of Health of the County shall consult with the Medical Officers of Health of County districts within the County whenever the circumstances may render this desirable.
- (5) If the annual or special reports of the Medical Officer of Health of a County district in the County shall not contain adequate information in regard to
 - (a) the vital statistics of the district,
 - (b) the sanitary circumstances and administration of the district, and
 - (c) the action taken in the district for putting in force the provisions of the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890 to 1909,
 the Medical Officer of Health of the County shall obtain from the Medical Officer of Health of the County district such further information on those matters as the circumstances may demand.
- (6) The Medical Officer of Health of the County shall, when directed by Us, or by the County Council, or as occasion may require, make a Special Report to the County Council on any matter appertaining to his duties under this Order.
- (7) The Medical Officer of Health of the County shall as soon as practicable after the 31st day of December in each year make an Annual Report to the County Council up to the end of December on the sanitary circumstances, the sanitary administration and the vital statistics of the County.

In addition to any other matters upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report, his Annual Report shall contain the following sections :

- (a) Adigest of all annual and special reports made by the Medical Officers of Health of all County districts within the County ;
- (b) a section as to the isolation hospital accommodation available for each County district and as to the steps which should be taken to remedy any deficiencies which may exist ;
- (c) a section on the administration of the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890 to 1909, within the County ;
- (d) a section on the water supply of the several County districts within the County ;
- (e) a section on the pollution of streams within the County and as to the steps for the prevention of pollution taken :—
 - (i) by the local authorities, and
 - (ii) by the County Council ;
- (f) a section on the administration within the County of the Midwives Act, 1902 ; and
- (g) a section on the administration of the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, 1875 to 1907, within that part of the County in which the County Council have jurisdiction for the purposes of those Acts.

- (8) The Medical Officer of Health of the County shall send to Us two copies of his Annual Report and two copies of any Special Report ; he shall also send one copy of his Annual Report to the Council of every County district in the County and shall send three copies of any Special Report to the Council of every such County district affected by the Special Report.

The County Medical Officer is not responsible for the administration of Public Health Law.

It is his duty to collect and to report such statistics or information relating to the health of the County as may in his opinion improve the sanitary condition of the community.

DUTIES OF DISTRICT MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH.

The duties have now been increased. They have to send to the County Medical Officer every week :—

- (a) A list of all cases of infectious diseases notified ;
- (b) A copy of all notifications of tuberculosis (L.G.B. Order, Nov., 1912).

They also have to include in their annual reports a section stating the action taken under the Housing Acts.

HEALTH OF THE COUNTY.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY.

Table 1.	County			England and Wales	Rural England
	1914	1913	1912	1914	1914
Population (estimated)	71580	71011	70448	37,690,612	
Birth Rate	21·07	23·65	21·06	20·8	
Death Rate	12·82	12·70	12·07	14·0	
Standardized Dth. R.	10·74	10·64	10·06	—	
Infant Mortality ...	100·80	95·24	91·00	105·	
Epidemic Death Rate	·66	·53	·42	—	
Diarrhoea Death Rate	8·62	9·52	6·57	20·41	
Phthisis Death Rate	·61	·77	·92	—	
Cancer Death Rate..	1·20	1·29	1·17	—	

POPULATION AND ACREAGE.

The Isle of Ely consists of the northernmost two-thirds of the County of Cambridge, and has an acreage of 238,073 acres. It is mostly below sea level except in those places where there is an out-crop of gravel, and the greater part of its area consists of a few feet of soil lying on a deep bed of clay.

Any streams that exist are artificial and have to be artificially controlled. The breakage of a bank means the inundation of thousands of acres and the loss of large sums of money.

The population for 1914 is estimated at 71,580 and is mainly employed in agriculture, although there is a rather large number of people employed in railway work. There is no real poverty or distress except perhaps in Wisbech, and that among persons not engaged in agriculture.

A good many people live in houses scattered about singly, or in twos and threes, and that complicates any scheme for improving the sanitary conditions.

POPULATION AND ACREAGE.

Table 2.

	AREA in Acres (Land and Inland Water)	POPULATION					
		Census 1901	Census 1911	Increase	Estimated Middle of 1912	Estimated Middle of 1914	Estimated 1915
IsLE OF Ely	238073	64495	69752	5257	70448	71580	72156
Total Urban District	57077	33729	36608	2879	36389	37297	37925
Total Rural District	180996	30766	33144	2378	33459	33971	34231
Chatteris Urban	13719	4711	5259	548	5332	5449	5510
Ely Urban	16742	7713	7917	204	7944	7988	8010
March Urban	19777	7565	8403	838	8514	8604	8786
Whittlesey Urban	362	3909	4207	298	4246	4311	4344
Wisbech M.B.	6477	9831	10822	991	10953	11167	11275
Ely Rural	63999	12383	12916	533	12986	13044	13100
North Wichford Rural	26088	4718	5215	497	5281	5334	5442
Thorney Rural	18959	1799	1902	103	1916	1938	1949
Whittlesey Rural	25837	3194	3380	186	3405	3424	3465
Wisbech Rural	46113	8672	9731	1059	9871	9985	10215
ENGLAND & WALES	37337537	32527843	36070492	3542649	36536636	36916319	37600612

BIRTH RATE.

Table 3.		COUNTY	England and Wales	Rural England
1912	..	21·6	23·8	22·1
1913	..	23·65	23·9	22·3
1914	..	21·07	20·8	
Number, 1914		1508		

During the year 1508 children were born to the Isle out of a population estimated to be 71,580. This gives a rate of 21·07 per 1000, and is lower than for the three previous years. Public opinion is now being stimulated so constantly by the press on the subject that it is unnecessary for me to point out the danger of the decrease.

The causes which may be operating are possibly migration of families, later and fewer marriages, and wilful restriction of families. The problem of dealing with these is national, but the scarcity of suitable houses is at ordinary times capable of amelioration by the County and District Councils.

DEATH RATE.

Table 4.		COUNTY	England and Wales	Rural England
1912	..	12·51	13·3	12·9
1913	..	12·70	13·7	13·1
1914	..	12·82	14·0	
Number, 1914		917		

During the year 882 deaths were registered in the Isle. Some of these (92) were not residents, and residents to the number of 127 were registered outside the area, so that the total number belonging to this County was 917. These are known as the nett deaths. The rate worked on this figure is 12·82 per 1,000 compared with for Rural England, only slightly above that for last year.

In order to compare satisfactorily the health of different communities it is necessary to take into consideration the number of people of different ages forming the community.

For instance if there were none but children and old people the death rate would naturally be very high, and if there were none but young adults it would be very low. The Registrar General supplies a factor to equalise this age and sex distribution, and when it is applied the death rate, which is known as the standardized D.R., becomes 10·74, as against 10·64 last year.

The most important difference between the two years 1913 and 1911 is that up to the age of 5 years 196 died this year instead of 216 last year, and over this age 721 died instead of 686, so there is a gain of 20 in the former age group and a loss of 35 in the latter. The most important diseases will receive separate consideration.

INFANT MORTALITY.

(Ratio of deaths under one year of age per thousand births registered.)

Table 5.		COUNTY	England and Wales	Rural England
1912		91·00	95·	86·
1913	..	95·24	109·	96·
1911	..	100·80	105·	..
Number, 1911		152		

The number of children under the age of one year who died in 1911 was 152, giving a rate of 100·8 per thousand births, over 5 per mille more than in 1913, and almost 10 per mille more than in 1912.

Set down below is the rate for each district in order of deplorability, and the figures in brackets represent the average for the last three years.

Wisbech Urban	..	..	127·36	(121·15)
March	..	..	120·22	(121·06)
Ely Rural	..	..	116·47	(92·32)
Chatteris	..	..	111·50	(105·11)
Whittlesey Urban	..	..	101·17	(98·82)
Whittlesey Rural	..	..	92·31	(88·88)
Ely Urban	..	..	81·08	(93·62)
Thorney	..	..	80·00	(91·80)
Wisbech Rural	..	..	76·63	(102·99)
North Witchford	..	..	61·95	(89·06)

The unavoidable death rate of infants is between 40 and 50, so that we are losing just twice as many as is necessary.

The causes of death are found on Table 6: the last column shows the number of deaths from each cause in 1913. It will be seen that there were six more deaths from Whooping Cough and 11 more from Convulsions in 1914.

A start has been made in the endeavour to reduce this excessive mortality by adopting the Notification of Births Act, and employing a Health Visitor.

Table 6.

CAUSES OF INFANT MORTALITY IN URBAN AND RURAL DISTRICTS, 1914.

Population, 71,580.

Deaths at all Ages, 917.

Births, 1,580.

Infant Mortality Rate, 100:80.

CAUSE OF DEATH	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 3 months	3 months and under 6 months	6 months and under 9 months	9 months and under 12 months	Total Deaths under 1 year—1914	Total Deaths under 1 year—1913
Small-pox											
Chicken-pox											
Measles											2
Scarlet fever											
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	1	6	11	5
Diphtheria and Croup								2		2	
Erysipelas											
Tuberculous Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	1	1			2	1
Abdominal Tuberculosis											1
Other Tuberculosis Diseases											2
Meningitis (non Tuberculous)	1	1	1	2	5	2	1	3	3	14	3
Convulsions											
Laryngitis											
Bronchitis	1		2	1	4	3	5	3	2	17	11
Pneumonia (all forms)						1	2	2	3	8	11
Diarrhoea			1		1	1	5			7	11
Enteritis		1			1	3	1	1		6	2
Gastritis						1				1	1
Syphilis											1
Rickets											2
Suffocation, overlying						1		1		2	1
Injury at Birth	1				1					1	1
Atelectasis	6				6					6	6
Congenital Malformation	1				1	1				2	5
Premature birth	28	1	1	2	32			1	1	31	12
Atrophy, Debility and											
Marasmus	8	2	1	3	14	8	5	2	2	31	30
Other Causes	3	1			4	2			2	8	11
Totals	19	6	6	8	69	26	22	16	19	152	160

Table 7. AGE OF INFANT DEATHS IN DISTRICTS, 1914.

Districts	Population	Deaths at all Ages	Births	Number of Infant Deaths in first four weeks of life				Number of Infant Deaths in first twelve months of life				In first year	Ratio per 1000 Births	
				1	2	3	4	1	2	3-5	6-8			9-11
URBAN														
Chatteris	..	69	131	4	2	1	1	8	4	1	1	1	15	114.50
Ely	..	96	148	5	1			6	2	1		3	12	81.08
March	..	102	183	6	1	1	4	12	3		4	3	22	120.22
Whittlesey	..	74	96	3		1	1	5		4		1	10	104.17
Wisbech	..	182	212	6	1		1	8	5	7	4	3	27	127.36
Total Urban	..	523	770	24	5	3	7	39	14	13	9	11	86	111.63
RURAL														
Ely	..	165	249	7	1	2	1	11	5	5	3	5	29	116.47
North Witchford	..	49	113	2				2	2	1	1	1	7	61.95
Thorney	..	19	50	1				1	1	2			4	80.00
Whittlesey	..	38	65	5				5			1		6	92.31
Wisbech	..	123	261	10		1		11	1	1	2	2	20	76.63
Total Rural	..	394	738	25	1	3	1	30	12	9	7	8	66	89.13
Total Town	..	523	770	24	5	3	7	39	14	13	9	11	86	111.63
Total County	..	917	1508	49	6	6	8	69	26	22	16	19	152	109.80

Table 8. Causes of Death in the Urban and Rural Districts, 1914.

CAUSES OF DEATH	Deaths in all Districts at Subjoined Age												Deaths in each District at all Age									
	All Ages	Under 1 year	Under 2 years	Under 5 years	Under 10 years	Under 15 years	Under 20 years	Under 25 years	Under 30 years	Under 35 years	Under 40 years	Under 45 years	Urban	Rural	White	Colored						
		1 year	2 years	5 years	10 years	15 years	20 years	25 years	30 years	35 years	40 years	45 years										
1. Enteric Fever ..	2				1	1							1									
2. Small Pox ..	..																				
3. Measles ..	..																				
4. Scarlet Fever ..	..																				
5. Whooping Cough ..	..																				
6. Diphtheria ..	21	11	6	1	3	1							2			1						
7. Influenza ..	10	2	1	3									3			1						
8. Erysipelas ..	13		1	1	1	5	1						2			2						
9. Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	..																					
10. Tuberculous Meningitis ..	44				10	20	11	2					1			11						
11. Other Tuberculous Diseases ..	14	2			7	3		1					2		1	1						
12. Cancer, malignant disease ..	8				1	2	3	29					7		2	1						
13. Rheumatic Fever ..	86					8		19					1			1						
14. Meningitis ..	2							1														
15. Organic Heart Disease ..	2							1														
16. Bronchitis ..	96	1			3	2	7	24	59				3		1	1						
17. Pneumonia ..	66	17	5	1	2			7	31				10		3	3						
18. Other Diseases of respiratory organs	..							7	12				1		3	6						
19. Diarrhea and Enteritis ..	39	8	1	2	2	5	7	1	3				4		2	3						
20. Appendicitis and Typhitis ..	6				1	1	1	1	5						1	1						
21. Cirrhosis of Liver ..	22	13	2				2	1					3			1						
21a. Alcoholism ..	..																				
22. Nephritis and Bright's Disease ..	7							2	1				1									
23. Puerperal Fever ..	1							5	10				2			1						
24. Other accidents and diseases of Pregnancy	..																					
25. Congenital Deformity and Malformation	4	1					2						6		1	1						
26. Violent Deaths ..	70	70											13			3						
27. Suicide ..	28	2	1	1	2	6	6	3					4			1						
28. Other Defined Diseases ..	13				1	2	2	2					1			5						
29. Diseases ill-defined or unknown ..	298	22	6	4	3	5	21	47	190				9		5	7						
30. Uncertified ..	34	3	1				2	3	25				21		2	1						
..	3								3							3						
All Cases ..	917	152	24	20	26	38	92	159	106				69	96	102	74	182	165	128			
Totals ..	917	152	24	20	26	38	92	159	106				69	96	102	74	182	165	128			

CAUSES OF GENERAL DEATH RATE.

CANCER.

Deaths per thousand of population.

Table 9.		COUNTY	England and Wales	Rural England
1912	...	1.17	1.01	1.06
1913	...	1.29		
1914	..	1.20		
Number, 1914		86		

I am pleased to be able to record a slight decrease in the number of deaths from this disease from 92 in 1913 to 86 in 1914, and of the rate from 1.29 per 1,000 to 1.20 per 1000.

This is a disease of which we have not sufficient knowledge to prevent its occurrence, and we do not know how to prevent its being fatal in a great many cases. Therefore its persistence and the fact that it carries off 10 per cent. of those who die casts no reflection on the way we deal with the disease. In many cases early recognition enables successful operative interference in the course of the disease to be undertaken, and we may hope that the deaths occurring during the working years of life may be gradually reduced.

DIARRHŒA.

Deaths per thousand calculated on the number of births.

Table 10.		COUNTY	England and Wales	Rural England
1912	..	6.57	8.53	5.54
1913	..	9.52	23.41	14.39
1914	..	8.62	20.41	
Number, 1914		13		

The number of deaths in the first year of life was 13, against 16 in 1913. These deaths are due mainly to improper and contaminated feeding. Scrupulous cleanliness is necessary in artificially rearing children, and the easiest way to avoid such deaths is for the mother herself to nurse.

It is to be hoped that gradually it will be understood by all how necessary is not only absence of dirt but absence of living micro organisms also.

The work of the Health Visitor will in time no doubt help to distribute this valuable knowledge.

TUBERCULOSIS (Pulmonary).

Table 11.		COUNTY	England and Wales	Rural England
1912	..	92	121	77
1913		77		
1914	..	61		
Number, 1914		44		

The deaths from Phthisis were 44 in number, giving a rate of '61, which is considerably less than in 1913 when it was '77, a reduction of 20 per cent. Thus one death in every 21 is due to Phthisis. As years go on and public opinion becomes more enlightened we have every reason to hope for a great reduction of these deaths. Medical knowledge is sufficiently advanced to practically eradicate the disease as soon as the nation is prepared to have it done. As with all communicable diseases it can never be wiped out as long as there is no means of controlling those suffering from it. Deaths from diseases other than Phthisis caused by the Tubercle Bacillus numbered 22, exactly the same as last year.

The subject will receive attention in an appendix at the end of the Report.

Table 12. Notifications of Infectious Disease and Removals to Hospital, 1914.

[Rates calculated on estimated population for middle of 1914]

Disease	Cases Notified in all Districts										No. of Districts	Cases Notified in the Several Districts										Rate	All Urban Districts	Total Urban																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																												
	In Age Groups											Chatteris	Ely	March	Whittlesey	Wisbech	All Rural Districts	Rate	Chatteris	Ely	March				Whittlesey	Wisbech	All Rural Districts	Rate	Chatteris	Ely	March	Whittlesey	Wisbech	All Rural Districts	Rate	Chatteris	Ely	March	Whittlesey	Wisbech	All Rural Districts	Rate	Chatteris	Ely	March	Whittlesey	Wisbech	All Rural Districts	Rate	Chatteris	Ely	March	Whittlesey	Wisbech	All Rural Districts	Rate	Chatteris	Ely	March	Whittlesey	Wisbech	All Rural Districts	Rate	Chatteris	Ely	March	Whittlesey	Wisbech	All Rural Districts	Rate	Chatteris	Ely	March	Whittlesey	Wisbech	All Rural Districts	Rate	Chatteris	Ely	March	Whittlesey	Wisbech	All Rural Districts	Rate	Chatteris	Ely	March	Whittlesey	Wisbech	All Rural Districts	Rate	Chatteris	Ely	March	Whittlesey	Wisbech	All Rural Districts	Rate	Chatteris	Ely	March	Whittlesey	Wisbech	All Rural Districts	Rate	Chatteris	Ely	March	Whittlesey	Wisbech	All Rural Districts	Rate	Chatteris	Ely	March	Whittlesey	Wisbech	All Rural Districts	Rate	Chatteris	Ely	March	Whittlesey	Wisbech	All Rural Districts	Rate	Chatteris	Ely	March	Whittlesey	Wisbech	All Rural Districts	Rate	Chatteris	Ely	March	Whittlesey	Wisbech	All Rural Districts	Rate	Chatteris	Ely	March	Whittlesey	Wisbech	All Rural Districts	Rate	Chatteris	Ely	March	Whittlesey	Wisbech	All Rural Districts	Rate	Chatteris	Ely	March	Whittlesey	Wisbech	All Rural Districts	Rate	Chatteris	Ely	March	Whittlesey	Wisbech	All Rural Districts	Rate	Chatteris	Ely	March	Whittlesey	Wisbech	All Rural Districts	Rate	Chatteris	Ely	March	Whittlesey	Wisbech	All Rural Districts	Rate	Chatteris	Ely	March	Whittlesey	Wisbech	All Rural Districts	Rate	Chatteris	Ely	March	Whittlesey	Wisbech	All Rural Districts	Rate	Chatteris	Ely	March	Whittlesey	Wisbech	All Rural Districts	Rate	Chatteris	Ely	March	Whittlesey	Wisbech	All Rural Districts	Rate	Chatteris	Ely	March	Whittlesey	Wisbech	All Rural Districts	Rate	Chatteris	Ely	March	Whittlesey	Wisbech	All Rural Districts	Rate	Chatteris	Ely	March	Whittlesey	Wisbech	All Rural Districts	Rate	Chatteris	Ely	March	Whittlesey	Wisbech	All Rural Districts	Rate	Chatteris	Ely	March	Whittlesey	Wisbech	All Rural Districts	Rate	Chatteris	Ely	March	Whittlesey	Wisbech	All Rural Districts	Rate	Chatteris	Ely	March	Whittlesey	Wisbech	All Rural Districts	Rate	Chatteris	Ely	March	Whittlesey	Wisbech	All Rural Districts	Rate	Chatteris	Ely	March	Whittlesey	Wisbech	All Rural Districts	Rate	Chatteris	Ely	March	Whittlesey	Wisbech	All Rural Districts	Rate	Chatteris	Ely	March	Whittlesey	Wisbech	All Rural Districts	Rate	Chatteris	Ely	March	Whittlesey	Wisbech	All Rural Districts	Rate	Chatteris	Ely	March	Whittlesey	Wisbech	All Rural Districts	Rate	Chatteris	Ely	March	Whittlesey	Wisbech	All Rural Districts	Rate	Chatteris	Ely	March	Whittlesey	Wisbech	All Rural Districts	Rate	Chatteris	Ely	March	Whittlesey	Wisbech	All Rural Districts	Rate	Chatteris	Ely	March	Whittlesey	Wisbech	All Rural Districts	Rate	Chatteris	Ely	March	Whittlesey	Wisbech	All Rural Districts	Rate	Chatteris	Ely	March	Whittlesey	Wisbech	All Rural Districts	Rate	Chatteris	Ely	March	Whittlesey	Wisbech	All Rural Districts	Rate	Chatteris	Ely	March	Whittlesey	Wisbech	All Rural Districts	Rate	Chatteris	Ely	March	Whittlesey	Wisbech	All Rural Districts	Rate	Chatteris	Ely	March	Whittlesey	Wisbech	All Rural Districts	Rate	Chatteris	Ely	March	Whittlesey	Wisbech	All Rural Districts	Rate	Chatteris	Ely	March	Whittlesey	Wisbech	All Rural Districts	Rate	Chatteris	Ely	March	Whittlesey	Wisbech	All Rural Districts	Rate	Chatteris	Ely	March	Whittlesey	Wisbech	All Rural Districts	Rate	Chatteris	Ely	March	Whittlesey	Wisbech	All Rural Districts	Rate	Chatteris	Ely	March	Whittlesey	Wisbech	All Rural Districts	Rate	Chatteris	Ely	March	Whittlesey	Wisbech	All Rural Districts	Rate	Chatteris	Ely	March	Whittlesey	Wisbech	All Rural Districts	Rate	Chatteris	Ely	March	Whittlesey	Wisbech	All Rural Districts	Rate	Chatteris	Ely	March	Whittlesey	Wisbech	All Rural Districts	Rate	Chatteris	Ely	March	Whittlesey	Wisbech	All Rural Districts	Rate	Chatteris	Ely	March	Whittlesey</

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The Isle has, on the whole, been free from any severe outbreak of infectious disease, and it is a matter for thankfulness as means for dealing with an outbreak are not ready to hand.

In a sparsely populated area such as this the necessity for Isolation Hospitals is not so marked as it is in more crowded districts. Disease does not spread rapidly and can be to some extent controlled, but in the absence of up to date methods it cannot be easily eradicated. Diphtheria in Chatteris is a good instance of this: in 1913 three cases were notified; in 1914 26 occurred. Had it been possible to isolate the first case, this year's 26 cases with their three deaths would possibly have been avoided.

The total number of infectious diseases notified was 358 (206 in the Urban Districts and 152 in the Rural), which is equivalent to 5.48 per mille in the Urban and 4.17 per mille in the Rural District. The more thickly populated districts, therefore, as would be expected, have suffered most.

If the notifications of Tuberculosis be deducted the number for Urban Districts is 121 or 3.22 per mille, and for Rural 77 or 2.27 per mille, which is still more in favour of sparse population.

In considering the number of deaths from infectious disease it will be seen that there were 28 in the Urban Districts, giving a rate of .74 per mille, and 19 in the Rural Districts, giving a rate of .56 per mille.

Too much reliance must not be placed on the figures representing Notifications, and a conclusion that these are the whole of the notifiable diseases occurring would be wrong. I am quite convinced that many cases are seen by Doctors and not notified. It is a great pity, because it invalidates what would be very useful information as to the health of the various districts and places.

The following diseases caused School Closures,—

Measles	..	..	..	..	1
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	2
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	10
Mumps	..	..	..	..	11
Chicken Pox	..	..	..	..	1

31

The average period of closure was 2.55 weeks.

ISOLATION HOSPITALS.

Isolation hospitals for the reception of Small Pox cases exist in the following districts: Chatteris, Ely Rural, March, Thorney, and Wisbech Urban.

Available Accommodation.

District	Pop. 1914	Small Pox Description	No. of Beds	Other Infectious Diseases Description	No. of Beds
Chatteris U. ..	5449	Under construction at Delve.	4	Slade End. Night Layer.	2
Ely U. ..	7966	None	..	None	
March U. ..	8500	Hospital in Gaul Rd. Two wards. (a) Large, 5. (b) Small, 2.	7	In the absence of Small Pox the Hospital is used for other infectious diseases.	
Whittlesey U. ..	4278	None	..	None	
Wisbech U. ..	11059	Isolated small building. More beds if required.	2	Wooden building, shared by Walsoken U. and Wisbech U. and Rural. S.F. and Diph.	14
Ely R. ..	13044	Wood and iron building belonging to District Council, situated in Workhouse grounds. Not furnished. No caretaker.	..	None	
N. Witchford R.	5387	None	..	None	
Thorney R. ..	1915	House on Peterboro' Common in conjunction with other L.As.	4	None (confering with Crowland R.D.C. and Peterboro'R.D.C.)	
Whittlesey R. ..	3434	None	..	None	
Wisbech R. ..	10000	None	..	Wooden building in conjunction with Walsoken and Wisbech U.	

General Fever Hospitals for the reception of other infectious diseases are sadly deficient. One at Wisbech serves the Urban and Rural Districts.

The Ely Urban and Rural District Councils have accepted the offer of a Fever Hospital by Mr. Wm. Cutlack. At the beginning of the war Mr. Cutlack thought it advisable to postpone the gift, but when troops were brought to the City of Ely he decided to shoulder the additional burden imposed by increased prices, and the work has been put in hand.

I am sure that the general public appreciate his generosity and still more do those responsible for the health of the Civil and Military population.

WATER SUPPLY.

Although during recent years many villages and towns have obtained proper water, many are still unsatisfactorily situated.

Among the larger communities still dependent on rain water, streams, and shallow contaminated wells, are Whittlesey and Littleport. The main difficulty is financial and can hardly lie in ignorance of the advantages of a pure and copious supply of the first necessity of life.

The rainfall for the year has been recorded in Ely by Captain Mander and in March by Mr. A. Lunn, C.E., Dartford Rd., to whom I am indebted for the following particulars.

1914 ELY.				Greatest fall		No. of days on	
Month.	Total Depth.			in 24 hours.		which measurable	
	in.			in.		rain (or) fell.	
January	1.65	..	..	.76	..	..	14
February .. ..	.94	..	..	.23	..	..	18
March	2.95	..	..	.37	..	..	24
April .. ..	.63	..	..	.31	..	..	15
May	1.13	..	..	.26	..	..	12
June	1.98	..	..	.75	..	..	13
July	1.83	..	..	.47	..	..	20
August	1.98	..	..	.72	..	..	15
September .. ..	.77	..	..	.27	..	..	8
October	2.07	..	..	.61	..	..	16
November	2.42	..	..	.35	..	..	20
December	4.82	..	..	1.3	..	..	24
Total	23.17						199

1914. MARCH.				Greatest fall in		No. of days on	
Month.	Total Depth.			24 hours.		which rain fell.	
	in.			in.			
January	1.62	..	..	.80	..	..	9
February .. ..	.92	..	..	.27	..	..	11
March	2.94	..	..	.41	..	..	21
April .. ..	.58	..	..	.17	..	..	8
May .. ..	.59	..	..	.16	..	..	9
June	1.98	..	..	.78	..	..	9
July	1.15	..	..	.37	..	..	13
August	2.58	..	..	.81	..	..	11
September .. ..	.59	..	..	.28	..	..	7
October	1.99	..	..	.50	..	..	11
November	2.26	..	..	.37	..	..	21
December	4.82	..	..	1.30	..	..	20
Total	22.02						153

ELY URBAN.

Water taken from the chalk at Isleham still remains plentiful and excellent in quality.

	Gallons.
The total quantity of water pumped during the year 1914	63,189,000
Average consumption per day	173,120
Average consumption per head per day for all purposes	21.73
Total quantity supplied by meter	13,305,020
Average consumption per day	36,152
Average per head per day	5.2

Deducting the quantity supplied by Meter for the trade purposes from the total quantity pumped the result is 19.5 gallons per head per day for domestic, street watering, sewer flushing and fire protection.

Prickwillow Supply. -In April the question of water supply to the Quanea Farms belonging to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners came before the Water-Mains Committee and a plan and estimate was prepared showing the proposed scheme, viz., to tap the Rising Main at the end of Quanea Drove and lay piping 1½ inch diameter, diminishing to 1 inch, to supply each of the five farms at an estimated cost of £800.

An alternative scheme A was proposed which was to combine the above large pipe and to supply Prickwillow and Adelaide Bridge, to cost approximately £2,519.

A second alternative scheme B was proposed to combine the first scheme but to lay the main along the Middle Fen Bank instead of Quanea Drove, to cost approximately £2,538.

A third alternative scheme was also proposed to supply Prickwillow and Adelaide Bridge direct by a 3 inch steel main laid along the side of the road to cost £1,544.

The whole question remains in abeyance.

CHATTERIS URBAN.

The water supply of the town is a constant supply, derived from the Wisbech Waterworks Company's springs at Marham. The water is very pure though somewhat hard. It is delivered at a fair pressure, which is supplemented by the agency of the Water Tower. The mains are in process of extension along the main roads leading out of the town, thereby creating additional facilities for the building of houses where the absence of a water supply has previously made building practically impossible.

MARCH URBAN.

There have been no developments of any particular moment during the year. The supply has not been curtailed. Nine cottages in Norwood Road would benefit by an extension of the main, which, in spite of representations to the Waterworks Company, has not, so far, been arranged. The character and quality of the public service water supply is too well-known and appreciated to need any comment. In addition to the water used solely for domestic purposes, a matter of twenty hydrants are placed in various parts of the town mainly for street watering and flushing of sewers, while they also form a valuable addition to the local fire extinguishing appliances.

WHITTLESEY URBAN.

We still rely on our shallow wells for the supply of water, also rain water collected in tanks, tubs, and cisterns. At present we do not see our way clear to get a supply of either the Braceborough or the Marham water, which our neighbours at March and Peterborough possess.

WISBECH URBAN.

The water supply is as formerly obtained from Marham. The supply is constant, abundant, and of excellent quality.

ELY RURAL.

The method of water supply varies considerably in different parts of the District, as follows:

At Mepal, Wardy Hill, and parts of Littleport and Downham the supply is obtained from the rivers, ditches and ponds.

At Haddenham, Witchford, Wentworth, Wilburton, Witcham, Sutton, Stretham, and parts of Littleport and Downham, the supply is obtained from wells.

In the Fen area, which is situate mainly on Fen silt and Kimeridge clay, rain water is the only supply, and this is stored in tanks of galvanised iron of a capacity of two hundred gallons and upwards, according to the requirements of the householders; but it should be noted that this sort of water supply was placed by the Rivers Pollution Commissioner very low in the scale of relative purity: in all cases it should be filtered and boiled before use.

In the instances where the supply is obtained from the river it is made to pass through a filter of sand and polarite before being used.

The well water varies very much in character: in some places, such as the south side and centre of Littleport, it is not of high-class quality, even apart from local pollution, derived as it is from gravel patches underlying cultivated land and dwellings, and from Boulder clay.

At Witchford the supply from the shallow wells is not satisfactory, and I must remark once more that an excellent supply could be obtained from a Greensand "Outlier," about a mile from the Village on the Ely Road.

The villages situated on the Greensand are Haddenham, Wilburton, and part of Stretham, which can obtain a supply from that stratum, but it is liable to local contamination. All the other villages in the District, with the exception of part of the Fen, are situate on low hills of Kimeridge clay.

The shallow wells derive their supply of water in certain parts of the District from the gravel resting on the Kimeridge clay.

Aldreth has the advantage of a natural spring, probably of Greensand origin.

Parish pumps have been repaired at Downham, 7; Haddenham, 6; Littleport, 8; Stretham, 2; Witcham, 2; Witchford, 1; Coveney, 2; Mepal, 1.

Parish ponds have been cleaned out at Haddenham, 4; Sutton, 1; Downham, 2; Stretham, 1.

On complaint of alleged pollution of a watercourse near the Chaff Factory, Littleport, inspections were made and samples of water were taken for analysis, one at the alleged source of pollution and another in the watercourse at about 20 yards distance, and both gave satisfactory results.

NORTH WITCHFORD.

In previous years I have reported to you that the villages of Doddington, Manea, and part of Wimblington were supplied with water from the Wisbech Water Works: this is known as the Marham water. This water is constant in supply and of excellent quality.

I have not come across any contamination in this water, or any plumbo solven action.

Wimblington is a scattered village, and is only supplied in parts with the Marham water, and as regards this village I would point out to you that approximately the following properties require it:—

Fuller's Lane	9
King's St., Eastwood End, and Hook ...	70
Bridge Lane	12
	—
	91

Benwick.—I have often in my Annual Reports brought to your notice, not only the desirability but the necessity of supplying this village with good water.

There are no wells here, and the villagers have only rain water, collected in tanks and river water.

The former is their only supply for drinking purposes, and this in dry seasons becomes stagnant and dangerous to drink : moreover, as has happened on one or two occasions, it may fail altogether.

The river water is not fit for drinking.

The Council insist that proper galvanised tanks are supplied to the cottages, but it appears to me that considering there is Marham water passing through Doddington four miles away, and there are many houses and farms which would be glad of the water along the road, the introduction of this water into Benwick village would not be attended with insurmountable difficulties.

THORNEY.

The District is supplied with water which is obtained from the River Nene.

At a place called " Dog in a Doublet " Sluice, an artificial cut leads from the Nene to the village of Thorney. This cut, called the Thorney River, is about $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles long, and after reaching the village divides into smaller drains which distribute water into different parts of the parish.

Confusion sometimes exists owing to the use of the word " drain." In this locality it usually refers to water-channel about 10 ft. wide, which is used for running fresh water to the parts where it is needed, and is also used for draining away surplus water after a heavy rainfall ; these drains gradually unite into larger ones, which eventually discharge into the main drain of the North Level, whence the water flows out into the Wash.

The water required by the village is filtered through gravel and sand, pumped into tanks in a high tower, and distributed thence to the various houses and premises.

During the year 1913 the filter beds were uncovered. Previously they were enclosed by an arched brick roof with large inspection doors let into the roof.

Recent analysis show a marked improvement in the purity of the water. The figures showing the amount of albumenoid nitrogen and the amount of oxygen absorbed, still indicate that the water is not so pure as it should be ; but in a fen district it is impossible to obtain good water except in a few places where there is an outcrop of gravel with springs in it.

A probable cause of the impurity of the water is the impure effluent pumped into the Nene from the Sewage Farm of the Peterborough Corporation. This matter is at present undecided, but in the immediate future steps are to be taken to try and remedy the fault.

Outside the village the inhabitants rely for their water supply on what they can catch from their roofs and store in tanks, and they supplement this supply by taking water from the nearest drain.

Failing both these sources water is fetched from the village by the landlord concerned in a water cart.

Boring for water has been tried on various occasions in likely spots in the parish, but no suitable or adequate supply has been found.

The water tower and plant, together with the adjacent buildings, the Thorney river and main drains (other than those under the jurisdiction of the North Level Commissions) were transferred by the Duke of Bedford to a body of Commissioners at the time he sold this estate. The Thorney Drainage Act, 1911, confers on these Commissioners the powers of a local authority in matters appertaining to the Water Supply and Sewerage of the District.

WHITTLESEY RURAL.

This is from surface wells, rain water tanks and rivers. By the rise or fall of soak water the wells become contaminated from the closet vaults.

WISBECH RURAL.

The greater part of the district is now in possession of an excellent supply of good and wholesome water from the springs at Marham under the control of Wisbech Water Works Company. This supply is being gradually year by year extended, and by co-operation between owners and tenants there is no reason why it should not be carried into the most remote parts of the Wisbech Rural District. Wherever water has been laid on in the district, it has paid for the investment of the capital involved. Such foresight would save much inconvenience in dry summers.

DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

There is in the whole Isle but one satisfactory Sewage Disposal scheme in operation, that is in the Municipal Borough of Wisbech.

The village of Thorney also has a deep level sewer, and the sewage is treated by broad irrigation on land.

March and Ely have defective and incomplete systems, involving no proper purification of effluent. Some of the other places have combined sewers carrying both surface water and sewage.

The most general method of disposal is the use of a Privy-with-Pit which is emptied at long intervals. There can be no doubt that where no proper sewage system is installed pail closets are much the best. They need attention and constant attention, and so avoid the long storage of excremental matter.

It may not be out of place to mention here that the contents of the pails should be buried in shallow trenches and covered with three to four inches of soil only.

RIVER POLLUTION.

Provided the river be large and the town small I see little harm in crude and partially treated sewage being passed into it. Undoubtedly it makes the river water unfit for drinking, but it will be that in any case. The streams pass through highly cultivated land and receive its drainages as also that from land used as pasture, and it should never be used untreated for drinking purposes. Unless a competent staff is kept to superintend its purification it is useless to look for good water from the streams in this area. I am sure that in every case it is better to connect a town or village with some other public supply brought from springs outside the Isle.

THE MENTAL DEFICIENCY ACT, 1913.

This Act is designed to remove to proper surroundings those who have been mentally defective from birth, and by its action will I believe gradually reduce the number of idiots, imbeciles, and feeble minded at large in this generation, and still more so the number in the next.

At the same time it must not be expected that any very marked result will be noticed as the result of the Act, because only occasionally are the general community aware of the few mentally defective persons among them and so their absence will not be much missed.

During the year one imbecile child had been sent to the Royal Eastern Counties Institution at Colchester by the Mental Deficiency Committee set up by the County Council to administer the Act in this area.

THE HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT.

The provisions of this Act have not been availed of nearly as much as necessity demands, but the reason which deters private individuals from building decent dwellings for the working classes operates against public bodies doing so. It is not possible to let such cottages at a rent which will avoid a charge on the rates even when money is obtained on long loans at a low rate of interest.

There is a decided dearth of houses, and each year the problem becomes more pressing. It says a good deal for the strength of the inhabitants and for the healthiness of their occupations that there is not more disease apparent.

I must call attention to the fact that Sanitary Inspectors in some districts do not make proper records of their visits, and the result is that the Medical Officers of Health are unable to give full accounts in their Annual Reports.

HOUSING.

ELY URBAN.

“ During the year 45 plans have been submitted for the Council's approval.

Villa Residences	...	...	...	2
New Cottages	...	...	...	15
New Workmen's Dwellings	...	...	...	16
Additions and alterations to Dwelling-houses	...	...	...	9
Cowsheds and alterations	...	...	...	3

Town Planning Act.

The number of houses inspected and reported upon during the year is 98. These are all cottages situated in the fens and outlying districts. Many of them were in a very dilapidated condition, and most of them require a considerable outlay to make them habitable, whilst others are in too bad a state of repair and can only be pulled down and rebuilt.

The following table will give a general idea of the work that has been carried out during 1914 only.

Statement required by article 5 of the housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, in regard to the inspection of dwelling-houses under Section 17 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909.

Number of Dwelling-houses inspected under and for the purposes of the Section	...	...	...	103
Number of such dwelling-houses which were considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	27
Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which representations were made to the Local Authority with a view to the making of Closing Orders	...	...	...	27
Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made by the Local Authority	...	...	...	5
Number of dwelling-houses the defects in which were remedied without the making of Closing Orders	not known			
Number of dwelling-houses which after the making of Closing Orders were made fit for human habitation				2

General Character of the defects found to exist in the dwelling-houses inspected.

Deficient light and ventilation.

No proper accommodation for the storage of food.

Absence of washhouses, except in living room.

Damp walls and floors.

Defective brick floors.

Deficiency or entire absence of spouting to houses.

Insufficient W.C. accommodation.

Deficient light and ventilation in same.

Absence of levelling and drainage in yards.

The entire inspection of the City, Villages and Fens has been completed some time. Reports have been drawn up and placed before the Council. I may say, however, that the Act, as far as Ely is concerned, is in abeyance and very few steps have been taken during the year to enforce it. .

I believe it is the wish of the Council not to move further in the matter until proper house accommodation is ready. I quite agree, but at the present rate of providing accommodation it must be many years before the work under this Act can be completed.

A considerable amount of work under the Act, such as small improvements and repairs, additional closets, was carried out in 1913, how much it is difficult to say, as no notice is given before undertaking such repairs, but during 1914 this work has practically stopped.

The new Workmen's dwellings, 16 in number, are nearing completion, and one hopes they will all be occupied in the Spring."

CHATTERIS URBAN.

The Housing Accommodation available for the smaller householders is adequate on the whole. Cottage building has practically been at a standstill owing to, amongst the other causes, increased cost of building materials and the working of the Finance Act, 1910. At the present, in view of the possible effect of Military demands on our population, it is not possible to estimate with any accuracy the need for further housing accommodation.

WHITTLESEY URBAN.

During the year there have been about 280 houses inspected by myself, under this Act. There were no formal notices sent, but the owners were asked to do what was necessary, and they have complied with the request. No Closing Orders were made, nor any order for

demolition. Two Old Tenements in Eastgate were pulled down. No New Houses have been erected during the year. A Card Register is kept of all inspections made.

MARCH URBAN.

Building operations were less active than usual in 1914, plans for only eight houses being submitted to your Council. In addition to these, the proposed erection of sixteen houses for the working classes were delayed somewhat by changes in the plans in order to meet the approval of the Local Government Board.

Notices of repair were given regarding three cottages in Gas Lane; ejectment summonses were obtained, and, in the absence of needful alterations, these have remained untenanted. Notice of the dangerous condition of another dwelling was issued, and steps were taken to put it into a reasonable condition of repair. Two houses on which Closing Orders were made are still occupied, though no rent is demanded of the tenants.

In the whole of your Sanitary District there are 2,169 houses, of which 1,616 are within the limit of inspection: of these, 386 have been inspected in the year, and while 295 are in good repair, 91 need alterations. Of the 91 requiring attention 8 were in a condition more or less involving risk to the tenants, and, with the exception of the two on which Closing Orders were made the rest have either been rebuilt or are untenanted.

WISBECH URBAN.

The Housing accommodation is ample for the requirements of the population. Some few new houses have been built in various parts of the District, generally of a better type, whilst the average number of occupants per house remains the same, namely, four. There have been no complaints of overcrowding.

(I cannot include these remarks of the Medical Officer of Health for Wisbech without pointing out that I am not in agreement with him upon the subject. Houses are grossly crowded together in poorer parts of the town and many of them kept in a very dirty condition. An Infantile Mortality of 127·36 does not support the contention that Housing Accommodation is ample for the requirements of the population nor does the fact that Wisbech with a population of 11,167 had 52 cases of Tuberculosis notified, whereas all the rest of the Urban Districts put together with a population of 37,609 had only 33. The Tuberculosis rate for Wisbech Urban is 4·65 per mille, and for the rest of the Districts 1·21.)

ELY RURAL.

It has become the practice in many parts of the district to cover the thatched houses with corrugated iron, whereby are combined the advantages of the non-conductivity of heat by the thatch, cleanliness of the external surfaces of the roofs, and suitability for the collection of rain water.

The house to house inspection has been continued during the year:

Houses inspected	..	..	..	..	..	1700
.. unfit	..	..	..	..	..	20
.. represented	..	..	..	..	..	20
Closing orders made	..	..	..	..	..	3
Remedied without closing order	..	..	..	..	..	50
.. after closing order	..	..	..	..	..	3

The general character of the defects were leaky, thatched roofs, dilapidated lath and plaster walls, dampness, want of eaves gutters, floors below ground level, and unsafe structure.

In cases where only repairs are needed and the owner is financially in a position to carry them out, reasonable requirements are generally willingly complied with; the chief difficulty is experienced in cases of very poor owners, who are often themselves the occupiers, and are without sufficient means to carry out necessary improvements.

With regard to adequacy I find, on calculation, taking the whole district, the proportion of persons to houses, at both censuses 1901 and 1911, works out at 1.2, therefore the provision of new houses just keeps pace with the increase of population.

Houses have been built at:—Littleport, 9; Haddenham, 1; Sutton, 3; Downham, 2; Wilburton, 1; Mepal, 1; Coveney, 1; Stretham, 3; Witchford, 1; Wicheam, 3.

Twelve cases of overcrowding have been abated by removal of part of the family or removal to other houses:—Littleport, 4; Downham, 3; Mepal, 1; Haddenham, 2; Sutton, 2.

Although there is no official supervision over the erection of new houses, in every instance a certificate, as required by Section 6 of the Public Health (Water) Act, 1878, is insisted upon before occupancy. Twenty four water certificates have been granted during the year.

NORTH WITCHEFORD.

A proper register is kept of the houses visited, as required by Article 5 of the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910.

During the year 1911, 98 houses have been inspected and reported on the register. Three were found unfit, and three were ordered to close.

In my reports of previous years I have pointed out to you that many of the cottages are inadequate for the families they contain.

From these inadequate cottages it is impossible to turn out families, because there are no other houses available.

I pointed out also that many of the parents of the large families are poor, and the reason they are poor is because they have large families.

These people can only afford a small rent, and the private owners of good houses prefer to let their properties to persons with small families.

It is therefore essential for you, Gentlemen, to erect houses to accommodate these people.

Again I would point out to you that many people are prevented from marrying because they cannot obtain houses to live in.

During the year 1914, after the visit of the Local Government Board Housing Inspector, the Council had seriously taken this question up and had obtained information about sites for building in the various parishes.

It is regrettable that it abandoned this scheme owing to outbreak of the war.

I trust that the Council will take the matter up again at its earliest opportunity, because it is only by the erection of new houses that we can satisfactorily cope with the "Housing Question"—in fact all our work to rid the district of many of its miserable dwellings is futile under existing conditions.

There were 11 new houses built in the district during the year 1914, one being a farm house, the others good cottages.

The Council exercises supervision over the construction of these. There are no Bye-laws for the building of houses: I consider they would be of service.

There is a deficiency of workmen's houses in all the parishes.

THORNEY.

The houses, both farm houses and cottages, are exceptionally good. They are well built of brick and slate, and are spacious, well ventilated, well lighted, and suitably provided with offices. They are usually built in blocks of six or eight, occasionally in pairs, and most of them contain two good living rooms, with two and frequently three bedrooms. All have a fireplace in one bedroom, and many have two bedrooms with fireplaces.

Out-houses, such as wash-house, coal-house, privy, &c., are well built, and generally separated from the dwelling by a paved, gravel, or asphalt yard.

Twelve new cottages were built in 1912 by the Rural District Council, and are large, roomy cottages. They each contain two living rooms, three bedrooms, and are provided with a bath, a rood of land, and a pigsty. The County Council have built two better class cottages for the occupation of small-holders farming under them.

There is still need for more houses in the district, but the need is chiefly felt by farmers in outlying districts, and probably some of these farmers will build in the near future.

Modern conditions of agriculture in the district demand the employment of extra hands for short periods, *e.g.*, harvest, setting, lifting, and riddling potatoes, cutting mustard and turnip seed; and these hands are forthcoming from the neighbouring villages. If there were enough houses built to accommodate them all there would be periods of unemployment.

As mentioned under the heading of Sanitary Inspection of the District, the houses in this area are very good, well built, and in good repair. The number of houses inspected was thirty. None were found to be in a state injurious to health and consequently unfit for human habitation.

No representations were made to the Local Authority with a view to making Closing Orders. No Closing Orders were made. In one case defects were remedied without making a Closing Order.

WHITTLESEY RURAL.

Owing to the fact that the Inspector of Nuisances has been called up for service on the National Reserve, the return is incomplete, as some time elapsed before a successor was appointed, and as more time elapsed after his appointment before I was able to make his acquaintance. Up to the end of the Inspector (F. Speechley) holding the office, nine houses and premises called for attention. No houses were found dangerous or injurious to health and unfit for human habitation. The previous year, after a complete inspection of the district, fourteen houses were reported upon as the worst. No report was made on the remainder. There seems to be some misunderstanding about the number inspected, but the whole district was inspected. No orders were made for closing. In all the houses inspected the defects were remedied without closing orders. The general defects were dilapidation in one; in three, closets were condemned; and in two, privy vaults were condemned; in one case of each ash-pits, offensive ditches, and offensive accumulations were found.

There are 12 new houses in course of erection for the working classes. There is no supervision over construction of new houses, and there are no bye-laws.

WISBECH RURAL.

The House Accommodation is satisfactory, and building both by private enterprise and the District Council is constantly adding a good class of labourers' cottages to the existing house accommodation. Owing to the great fertility of the soil and the large amount of labour required for the fruit farms, a healthy demand always exists for cottages throughout the Rural District of Wisbech.

Bye-Laws.

Adoptive Acts.

Table 13.

DISTRICTS

Table 13.																			
DISTRICTS																			
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
		New Streets and Buildings	Refuse (Removal), etc.	Nuisances	Slaughter Houses	Offensive Trades	Water Supply	Dairies and Cowsheds and Milkshops	Cleaning of Footways and Pavements	Common Lodging Houses	Pests, Vans, etc.	(Food Rule and Government	Infectious Diseases Notification Act, 1889	Infectious Diseases Prevention Act, 1890	Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890	Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907 (parts of)	Private Street Works' Act, 1892	Baths and Wash-houses Act	
URBAN																			
Chatteris	1914	..	1904	..	..	1890	..	1904	..	..	..	..	Pt. III	..	X	X	
Ely	1898	1898	1898	..	..	..	..	1898	..	..	..	..	..	..	X	X	
March	1898	1898	1898	1898	..	..	..	1898	..	..	..	..	X	..	X	X	
Whittlesey	1900	1899	1899	..	..	1899	..	1900	..	1906	X	..	..	..	..	..
Wisbech	1907	1900	1900	..	..	1899	..	1900	..	..	..	..	X	..	..	..
RURAL																			
Ely	None	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
North Wicheford	None	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Thorney	None	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whittlesey	None	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wisbech	None	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

§ 52,
62 & 65

§ 7

Table 14.

SANITARY INSPECTION, 1914.

	CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.						SCAVENGING
	Pail Closets	Privy Middens	Water Closets	Reconstructed as W.C.s in 1914	Additional to old property	New Houses W.C.s.	
Chatteris Urban ..	148	129 covered	Waste 2 795	19	3	8 1 Pail Closet	Sorted and Sold Cost £90
Ely Urban ..	None in Urban area. All in surrounding country principally open Privys		All in Urban area	13	30	18 4 Pail Closets	Tip cost £98
March Urban ..		1256	516 73 waste water	2		40 W.C.	Tip cost £160, including removal of nightsoil
Whittlesey Urban ..	No	Return					None
Wisbech Urban ..	18	216 Open and about 30 covered		6 or 8	8		To Farmers
Ely Rural ..	84 substituted during the year.	The rest	None				None
North Witchford Rural ..	288	600—700	30 Waste 13	1		3 8 other	On land Cost £78
Thorney Rural ..	280	One covered	28				Tip two miles from village
Whittlesey Rural ..	A few	Most	A few				None
Wisbech Rural ..		No	Return				None

Table 15.

NUISANCE INSPECTION, 1914.

	Number of Inspections	Informal Notices	Complied with	Stat. Notices	In hand at end of year	
					1913	1914
Chatteris Urban ..	240	43	43		6	3
Ely Urban ..	143	23	23	Nil	5	Nil
March Urban ..				Nil	Nil	Nil
Whittlesey Urban ..	Several					
Wisbech Urban ..	Very many	Not known	All	10 All complied with	5	Nil
Ely Rural ..	A large number			No Return		
North Witchford Rural	513	31	25	8 Complied with	5	3
Thorney Rural ..	130		Suggestions complied with			
Whittlesey Rural ..	Some	9	9			1
Wisbech Rural ..	Many		No Return			

MIDWIVES ACT, 1902.

There are only two Midwives who have given notice of their intention to practice in the Isle during the year. When it is considered how almost impossible of access, especially in the winter, many of the houses in the fen are, it says much for the devotion and skill of the Medical Practitioners in the Isle that Puerperal Fever claimed only one life and other accidents of pregnancy only four.

There is in the Isle so little poverty that practically everybody can manage to pay for a doctor for confinements, so that midwives are not necessary to act as such. Of course it would be a great advantage if more of the monthly nurses were properly trained.

MENTAL DISEASE.

Fulbourn Asylum.—There were in the Institution on January 1st, 1915, 67 males and 125 females.

During 1914 there were :—Discharges, 12; Deaths 26.

Causes.	{	Cardiac Valvular Disease ..	8	(45, 52, 59, 64, 71, 75, 77, 83)
		Cerebral Hæmorrhage ..	3	(40, 75, 89)
		Cardiac fatty degeneration	1	(74)
		Pernicious Anæmia ..	1	(64)
14 ..	{	Arterio Sclerosis ..	1	(64)
6 ..	{	Lobar Pneumonia ..	2	(76, 77)
		Broncho „ ..	2	(74, 93)
		Pulmonary Congestion ..	1	(55)
		Pulmonary Tuberculosis ..	1	(23)
4 ..	{	Cancer ..	1	(64)
		Acute Peritonitis ..	1	(33)
		Status Epilepticus ..	1	(6)
		General Paralysis ..	1	(39)
2 ..	{	Enteric Fever ..	2	(27, 53)

Thus of the 26 deaths 16 were due to derangements of the Cardiac Vascular System and 6 to affections of the Pulmonary System.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS ACT, 1907.

Although this Act was put into operation in July, 1914, even at the date of writing the report it cannot be said to be in full working order.

All the Doctors have not yet got into the way of notifying all the births; all the Registrars do not give the assistance they might, although more give information than withhold it. We have only one Health Visitor in place of three who will be eventually required.

For the first half year of working in Wisbech 151 births were notified and 153 not notified; in North Witchford 97 were notified and 53 not; and in Peterboro' 50 were notified and 4 not.

From the other districts the Registrars have not replied to letters on the subject, so figures cannot be given. Altogether, from the five districts, 546 births were notified, and I estimate that probably one in three is not notified.

It must not be a source of surprise therefore if the adoption of the Act does not cause an immediate drop in the Infant Mortality. But I do look forward to a real drop as time goes on, and people begin to take real advantage of the presence of the Health Visitor in their midst.

HEALTH VISITOR.

To do the nursing part of the three activities to which the County Council is committed in undertaking to work The Notification of Births Act, the Tuberculosis Scheme, and the Medical Examination of School children, Female Officials are necessary. Dr. Barnett's advice was that the three offices should be amalgamated and one Health Visitor be stationed at March, one at Ely and one at Wisbech. During 1914 Miss Wilkins was appointed, and on her fell the task of starting new work, explaining herself at each house she visited, meeting at times surliness and incivility where a hearty welcome should have been extended. The opening of any new work like this is very difficult, and it would perhaps help matters if members of the Public Health Committee would support the Health Visitor by explaining her work in their own district. I have no doubt that the work will increase in efficiency and show in time excellent results, but I must warn the enthusiasts not to be disappointed that Infants still die, Tuberculosis still spreads, and School children still need attention.

TRADE PREMISES UNDER SUPERVISION.

ELY URBAN.

The Cowsheds and Dairies were inspected twice during the year, in April and September. There were 15 inspections made, of which 10 were satisfactory.

There is a very marked improvement in the Dairies and Cowsheds throughout the District.

MARCH URBAN.

The arrangements for taking samples under the Food and Drugs Acts are vested in the Police Authority, whose efforts are mainly directed to the milk supply in the relation to the percentage of fat. No disease has been attributed to the milk supply during the past year.

CHATTERIS URBAN.

The milk supply of the town is entirely local, the milk being delivered twice daily direct to the consumers. The quality of the milk has been found to be satisfactory, and up to the standard required.

The Cowsheds and Dairies are all kept in good order.

WHITTLESEY URBAN.

One sample of milk was found to be deficient of fat to the amount of 13 per cent. The owner was summoned and fined.

WISBECH URBAN.

The milk supply continues to be through the milk vendors who bring their milk into the District from the surrounding country. The quantity has been ample, but the quality has been at times slightly below the requisite standard, which is a matter of very serious moment, as so much depends upon the milk supply and its good quality in keeping away sickness, especially among young children. There are no milkshops existing in the town.

ELY RURAL.

No regulations have been adopted by the Council for the control of Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops, but there are only fourteen milk purveyors in the whole district, namely: at Haddenham, 4; at Wilburton, 1; at Sutton, 3; at Littleport, 4; at Stretham, 1; and at Downham, 1.

NORTH WITCHFORD.

The milk supply is good as regards its purity, and it is sufficient in quantity in the village. In the intermediate parts, however, milk is difficult to procure.

There are nine cow keepers in the district, and nine milk sellers, all of whom are registered.

It is a fact that grass will not grow to perfection on fen soil, and it is only on the more elevated parts, known as "Highland" that cows can be well fed.

This necessitates the use of tinned and condensed milk.

It is an unfortunate circumstance, therefore, that many artificially fed infants are brought up on this milk, and it is undoubtedly very harmful to the digestive tracts of the child.

• THORNEY.

Two carts are sent round the village daily from which milk is sold, and several people sell milk in small quantities for the convenience of neighbours. In the fen, cottagers are dependent on the nearest

farmers for any milk they require. As this is not a district suitable for dairy work, few of the farmers keep cows, except for supplying their own household's needs: this means great difficulty for the cottagers in obtaining milk, even when there is illness in their houses. Most of them manage without milk or else use condensed milk.

The Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Orders are not in force.

WHITTLESEY RURAL.

There are no dairies, cowsheds, or milkshops.

As far as I am aware no steps have been taken with regard to milk and cream regulations.

WISBECH RURAL.

The dairies and cowsheds have all been inspected and found to be in a clean and satisfactory state.

CERTIFYING SURGEONS IN THE ISLE OF ELY.

The following are the names of the Certifying Factory Surgeons in the Isle of Ely:—

Chatteris Urban Districts, and part of North Witchford Rural District, viz., the civil parishes of Benwick, Doddington, and Welches Dam	}	R. E. Nix, B.A., M.B., Market Hill, Chatteris.
Ely Urban District, and part of Ely Rural District, viz., the civil parishes of Covey, Downham, Thetford, and Witchford ..	}	F. H. Beckett, M.B., B.C., St. Audrey's, Ely.
March Urban District and part of North Witch- ford Rural District, viz., the civil parishes of Manea and Wimblington	}	F. A. Evison, M.D., Broad St., March.
Whittlesey Urban District	}	J. J. Waddelow, F.R.C.S.,
Whittlesey Rural District	}	Whittlesey.
Thorney Rural District	}	
Wisbech Municipal Borough	}	W. Groom, M.D.,
Wisbech Rural District	}	32, Old Market, Wisbech, Cambs.
Part of Ely Rural District, viz., the civil parishes of Grunty Fen, Haddenham, Mepal and Witcham, Stretham, Sutton, Went- worth, and Wilburton	}	C. W. Howe, M.B., Haddenham, Isle of Ely.
Part of Ely Rural District, viz., the civil parishes of Littleport and Redmere ..	}	F. W. Mawby, L.S.A., Mow Fen Hall, Littleport, Ely.

Table 16.

WORKSHOPS IN THE URBAN AND RURAL DISTRICTS.

				No. of Workshops on Register	Number of Inspections				Bake-houses		Defects found (not including Bake-houses)		Out-workers		
					Factories	Workshops	Work-places	Outworkers	Number	Underground (in use)	Under P.H.A.	Under F.W.A.	Lists	Workers	
URBAN.															
Chatteris	..	..	..	42							nil	nil		
Ely	..	..	..	99	8	69	30						5	10
March	..	..	..	83	13	44	31				9	2		
Whittlesey	..	..	..	31		62								
Wisbech	..	..	..	149	10	12								
RURAL.															
Ely	..	..	..			127		28			3			
North Witchford	..	..	..	34		37	11		10					
Thorney	..	..	..			2	2		2		nil	nil		
Whittlesey	..	..	..		None port									
Wisbech	..	..	..	67	7	34				None port				

NUMBERS EMPLOYED IN THE ISLE OF ELY FACTORIES.

Persons employed in the Factories (various trades) :—

Printing	...	...	...	...	...	120
Brewing and Malting	...	...	...	...	...	102
Aerated Waters	...	...	...	...	...	16
Grist, Milling, Flour and Bakers	...	...	...	...	...	95
Gas and Coke	...	...	...	...	...	24
Iron Founders, Engineering, and Machine Repairing	...	...	...	...	...	300
Electricity, Wheelwright, Smith, Joiner, Carpenter, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	90
Fibre Mats	...	...	...	...	...	9
Saw Mills and Chip Baskets	...	...	...	...	...	205
Curriers (Boots and Leggings)	...	...	...	...	...	7
Cycle and Motor Repairs	...	...	...	...	...	24
Hemp Thrashing and Preparing	...	...	...	...	...	28
Bricks	...	...	...	...	...	280
Forage, Grain Cleaning, and Oat Clipping	...	...	...	...	...	42
Firewood	...	...	...	...	...	2
Shirts	...	...	...	...	...	151
Bags and Baskets	...	...	...	...	...	24
Laundry	...	...	...	...	...	38
Coaches and Carriages	...	...	...	...	...	22
Artificial Manure	...	...	...	...	...	6
Bean and Pea Picking and Fruit Preserving	...	...	...	...	...	133
						1718

Age and Sex.

Persons above 18 years of age employed as full timers—

Males	1133
Females	290

Persons under 18 years of age—

Males	81
Females	50

Total	1557
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Table 17.

FACTORIES IN THE URBAN AND RURAL DISTRICTS.

URBAN DISTRICTS.	No. of Factories	No. of Males employed	No. of Females employed	No. of Y.P. Males employed	No. of Y.P. Females employed
Chatteris	13	140	10	9	7
Ely	25	157	93	21	13
March	23	112	34	9	6
Whittlesey	11	23		1	
Wisbech	49	280	160	25	34
RURAL DISTRICTS.					
North Witchford	5	6			
Ely	32	109	97	5	12
Whittlesey	12	250		34	
Wisbech	12	19			
North Witchford—					
Benwick	1	1			
Doddington	1	1			
Manea	2	2			
Wimblington	2	3			
Ely—					
Downham Fen	1	4			
Pymoor	1	1			
Prickwillow	3	8	4		2
Haddenham	7	20		2	
Stretham	3	12	—	2	
Sutton	5	40	—	2	
Littleport	10	20	130	1	20
Wisbech—					
Christchurch	2	2			
Friday Bridge	1	1			
Gorefield	1	1			
Leverington	3	6	12		
Murrow	1	1			
Parson Drove	1	1			
Tydd St. Giles	1	1			
Upwell	1	1			
St. Mary	1	1			
Ehu	1	—	—	1	
Whittlesey—					
Churchfield	5	113	—	30	
King's Dyke	1	70	—	10	
Lattersea Field	4	40	—	15	
Coates	1	1	—		
Thorney	2	5	—		

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

These are administered by the Police, and I am indebted to the Chief Constable for the following table. It will be observed that, altogether, 78 samples out of a total of 218 taken were of milk.

Of these 78 samples of milk, as many as 10 were deficient in milk fat, and had, therefore, been tampered with, either by skimming and watering; that is to say that nearly 13 per cent. of the samples taken were adulterated.

In March 14 per cent. were adulterated, and in Wisbech 25 per cent.

Is it surprising that while milk of such inferior quality is sold the infants die almost twice as rapidly as they need?

Considering as I do that the supply of pure milk in sufficient quantity is one of the chief factors in the welfare of infants, I am making this a subject of special enquiry

*Return of Samples submitted to Public Analyst by the Police
to December, 1914.*

Division	Bread	Butter	Milk	All others	Total	Result of Analysis
Chatteris	4	1	7	29	41	All genuine
Ely	3	3	16	36	58	One sample of milk adulterated
March	5	4	28	18	55	Four samples of milk adulterated
Whittlesey	1	1	7	13	22	One sample of milk adulterated
Wisbech	1	8	20	13	42	Four samples of milk adulterated
Totals	14	17	78	109	218	

1914.

	Popu- lation	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Stan- dard- ized Death Rate	Infant Mortality	Epidemic Death Rate	Diarrhoea Death Rate per 1000 of Births	Phthisis Death Rate	Cancer Death Rate	Deaths over 65			
Chatteris, U.	5119	131	24.04	69	12.66	10.76	15	114.50	4	.73			
Ely ..	7988	148	18.52	96	12.02	10.09	12	81.08	2	.25			
March ..	8694	183	21.05	102	11.73	10.54	22	120.22	3	.35			
Whittlesey ..	4311	96	22.27	74	17.17	13.73	10	104.17	3	.70			
Wisbech ..	11167	212	18.98	182	16.29	13.24	27	127.36	16	1.43			
Total Urban ..	37609	770	20.47	523	13.90	11.68	86	111.69	28	.74			
Ely (Rural)	13102	249	19.00	165	12.60	10.37	29	116.47	8	.61			
North Witchford ..	5387	113	20.97	49	9.10	7.36	7	61.95	1	.74			
Thorney ..	1938	50	25.80	19	9.80	9.10	4	80.00					
Whittlesey ..	3415	65	18.87	38	11.03	9.79	6	92.31					
Wisbech ..	10099	261	25.84	123	12.18	10.26	20	76.63	7	.69			
Total Rural ..	33971	738	21.75	394	11.59	9.69	66	89.43	19	.56			
County as a whole	71580	1508	21.07	917	12.82	10.74	152	100.80	17	.66			

1913.

	Popu- lation	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Cor- rected Death Rate	Infant Mortality	Epidemic Death Rate	Diarthoa Death Rate per 1000 of Births	Phthisis Death Rate	Cancer Death Rate	Deaths over 65								
Chatteris, U.	5300	127	23.56	76	14.10	11.98	18	141.73	6	1.11	5	39.37	4	.74	10	1.85	25	32.89
Ely	7966	186	23.34	94	11.80	9.90	17	91.39	11	1.38	9	1.12	9	1.12	8	1.00	39	41.48
March	8604	199	23.12	97	11.96	10.75	16	80.40	1	.41	4	20.10	7	.81	7	.81	42	43.29
Whittlesey	4278	111	25.95	71	16.59	13.08	12	108.10	10	2.33	1	9.00	2	.46	9	2.10	32	48.07
Wisbech	11059	210	18.98	147	13.29	10.80	19	90.47	2	.18	10	.90	10	.90	13	1.17	67	15.57
Total Urban	37297	833	22.23	485	13.00	10.84	82	98.43	30	.80	10	12.00	32	.85	47	1.28	265	42.55
Ely (Rural)	13044	302	23.15	166	12.72	10.47	24	79.47	1	.03	4	13.21	9	.69	12	.91	83	50.00
North Witchford	5334	139	26.04	76	14.24	11.51	17	122.30	1	.18	4		4	.75	10	1.87	36	47.36
Thorney	1927	65	33.73	15	7.78	7.22	4	61.53					1	.51	1	.51	7	46.66
Whittlesey	3424	73	21.32	39	11.39	10.01	6	82.02	3	.87	2	7.46	3	.87	4	1.16	17	42.50
Wisbech	9985	268	26.84	121	12.11	10.20	27	100.74			2		6	.60	18	1.80	45	37.19
Total Rural	33714	847	25.12	417	12.39	10.36	78	89.65	8	.23	6	7.08	23	.68	45	1.33	188	44.97
County as a whole	71011	1680	23.65	902	12.70	10.64	160	95.24	38	.53	16	9.52	55	.77	92	1.29	393	43.52

1912.

	Popu- lation	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Cor- rected Death Rate	Infant Mortality	Epidemic Death Rate	Diarrhoea Death Rate	Phthisis Death Rate	Cancer Death Rate	Deaths over 65						
Chatteris, U.	5332	120	22.50	69	12.9	11.0	7	58.33	1	.18	6	1.12	5	.93	33	46.47
Ely..	7944	136	17.1	108	13.6	11.4	15	110.	4	.50	9	1.13	10	1.25	53	47.74
March ..	8514	188	22.08	101	12.8	11.61	27	143.61	5	.58	1	5.31	10	1.17	42	37.27
Whittlesey ..	4246	93	21.92	58	13.66	10.92	8	86.02	1	.23	1	10.75	8	1.88	26	44.82
Wisbech ..	10953	221	20.2	152	13.9	11.3	19	86.75	5	.45	4	18.26	11	1.36	56	41.17
Ely, R. ..	12986	294	22.56	165	12.70	10.45	25	85.32	7	.53	3	10.23	9	.77	83	50.30
North Witchford..	5281	99	18.7	56	10.60	8.56	8	80	3	.56	3	5.6	3	.75	25	44.64
Thorney ..	1916	53	27.7	16	8.4	7.8	3	57.67	1	.04	1	19.23	1	.52	9	64.28
Whittlesey ..	3405	84	24.66	31	9.10	7.99	6	71.	2	.16	2	1.46	5	1.46	15	48.38
Wisbech ..	9871	237	24.01	132	13.37	11.26	21	88.60	1	.40	12	1.21	15	1.52	55	41.66
County as a whole	70448	1525	21.6	896	12.7	10.6	139	91.	30	.42	10	6.57	65	1.17	397	44.91

* Percentage of Total.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The problem of Tuberculosis is fortunately not so grave in the Isle as in many other parts. The deaths from Phthisis were only 41 in number, that is to say '61 per 1000, and from non Pulmonary Tuberculosis 22 or '30 per thousand giving a total death rate of '91 per thousand due to Tuberculosis in all forms.

During 1914 the County Council formulated a scheme and appointed a Tuberculosis Officer in Dr. Grahame to carry out the work. A dispensary was proposed at Wisbech, and a house actually taken when the war broke out. Dr. Grahame offered himself for Military duty, and Dr. Barnett made arrangements to do part of Dr. Grahame's work, and it was decided for the time being to drop the dispensary.

The Council supplies shelters to the sufferers for whom they are considered necessary. There is very little difficulty in getting patients to go to Sanatoria now, but there is still said to be great objection to "going away to die" in advanced cases who should be in hospital. I think herein lies our difficulty, that we shall find people who will go to the Sanatorium and be cured and be infected again from the same person who gave the disease in the first instance.

The number of Tuberculous cases notified during 1914 was, Pulmonary, 121; non Pulmonary, 36; giving a total of 160 for the year. Of these 160, many have still sought medical help too long after the onset of the disease.

There is every hope of the Isle's being able to run a satisfactory Tuberculosis Scheme as soon as the war is over and the Tuberculosis Officer returns. The present position is that curable cases get a very good chance, but no arrangements are made for those who are spreading the disease except that they are rendered as harmless as possible by being instructed by the Health Visitor. I must repeat however that the Isle is in a far more fortunate position as regards the need for a County Scheme than are many areas, as the sum available to the Insurance Committee suffices for the great majority of the cases needing Sanatorium treatment.

COMPLETED TABLES.*HEALTH OF THE COUNTY.***STATISTICAL SUMMARY.**

Table 1.	County			England and Wales	Rural England
	1914	1913	1912	1914	1914
Population (estimated)	71580	71011	70448	37,690,612	
Birth Rate	21·07	23·65	21·06	23·8	22·2
Death Rate	12·82	12·70	12·07	14·0	13·4
Standardized Dth. R.	10·74	10·64	10·06	13·7	12·4
Infant Mortality ..	100·80	95·24	91·00	105·0	93·0
Epidemic Death Rate	·66	·53	·42	·73	·54
Diarrhœa Death Rate	8·62	9·52	6·57	20·41	12·64
Phthisis Death Rate	·61	·77	·92	—	—
Cancer Death Rate..	1·20	1·29	1·17	—	—

BIRTH RATE.

Table 3.	COUNTY	England and Wales	Rural England
1912 ..	21·6	23·8	22·1
1913 ..	23·65	23·9	22·3
1911 ..	21·07	23·8	22·2
Number, 1914	1508		

DEATH RATE.

Table 4.	COUNTY	England and Wales	Rural England
1912 ..	12.54	13.3	12.9
1913 ..	12.70	13.7	13.1
1914 ..	12.82	14.0	13.4
Number, 1914	917		

INFANT MORTALITY.

(Ratio of deaths under one year of age per thousand of births registered.)

Table 5.	COUNTY	England and Wales	Rural England
1912 ..	91.00	95.	86.
1913 ..	95.24	109.	96.
1914 ..	100.80	105.	93.
Number, 1914	152		

CANCER.

Deaths per thousand of population.

Table 9.	COUNTY	England and Wales	Rural England
1912 ..	1.17	1.01	1.06
1913 ..	1.29	1.05	1.10
1914 ..	1.20		
Number, 1914	86		

DIARRHŒA.

Deaths per thousand calculated on the number of births.

Table 10.		COUNTY	England and Wales	Rural England
1912 ..		6·57	8·53	5·54
1913 ..		9·52	23·41	14·39
1914 ..		8·62	20·41	
Number, 1914		13		

TUBERCULOSIS (Pulmonary).

Table 11.		COUNTY	England and Wales	Rural England
1912 ..		·92	1·01	·77
1913 ..		·77	·98	·74
1914 ..		·61		
Number, 1914		44		